

Laughing At Limericks

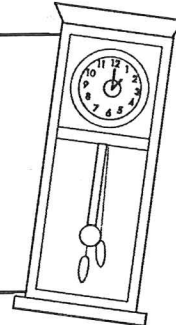
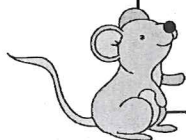
Limericks are a type of nonsense poetry that are meant to be silly and very funny. They have five lines and a very specific rhythm and beat. Legend has it that they originate from Ireland which is why we often hear them around St. Patrick's Day.

Read the limericks below and listen to the rhythm and beat.

There once was a man from Beijing .
All his life he hoped to be King .
So he put on a crown,
Which quickly fell down.
That crazy silly man from Beijing.



Hickory Dickory Dock
The mouse ran up the clock
The clock struck one
And down he run
Hickory Dickory Dock.



What's the Rhythm?

Limericks have a certain rhyme scheme or pattern.
What do you notice as you read the limericks out loud?
Can you figure out the rhyme scheme from the two examples above?

Which lines have end words that rhyme?

_____ & _____

What is the rhyme scheme?



Limerick Writing



Template A

There once was a _____ called _____.
All the while s/he hoped _____.
So s/he _____.
And _____.
That _____ from _____.

Template B

I once met a _____ from _____.
Every day s/he _____.
But whenever s/he _____.
The _____.
That strange _____ from _____.

Template C

Introduce a person or place (think of a name / word that rhymes easily)
Describe a unique characteristic of the person.
Describe their activities or problem on the third line
Continue to describe their activities or problem on the fourth line
Wrap it up with a funny punch line!

Laugh At Your Own Limerick!

Write two silly limericks of your own using the templates above.
Or create your own style keeping the same beat and rhyme scheme.

Your poems must have...

- a title ("My Limerick" is not a good title)
- the correct limerick rhyme scheme and rhythm (a, a, b, b, a)
- correct spelling
- a funny punch line / a sense of humor

Laughing At Limericks

Name: _____



Laugh At Your Own Limerick!

Write your own limerick or limericks in the four leaf clover below. Cut out the clover and use it to decorate a bulletin board or classroom display.

